

**103. Persian 10**, Turkman style, or more likely Indian, 815/1412.

Contents: *Kalīla wa Dimna* animal fables, also known as the *Tales of Bidpay*.

Folios: 190 fols. paper, 26.5 x 16 cm. The original paper folios, darker in colour, are encased in a frame, 18.5 x 11 cm.

Rulings: 17 lines per page.

Script: *Nasta'liq* in black ink with some use of red, blue and gold.

Colophon and seal: A colophon on fol. 190r dates the manuscript 815 A.H. (1412 A.D.) and gives the copyist as Murshid al-Dīn ibn Ṣadr al-Dīn al-muz(ahhib). There is a square seal on fol. 1r, presumably of an owner.

Binding: Blue lacquered boards with gold medallions and a floral border; the same front and back. The two boards, front and back, were attached at the spine with dark red leather. The binding dates

---

<sup>65</sup> A partial list identifying the miniatures made by B. Robinson, 16 August 1976 is deposited in the Library. Here Robinson observed that 'a considerable number of obscure incidents are illustrated ... whilst others of which illustrations are normally found in copies of the epic ... are omitted.'

to the time when the manuscript was bound in its present format, probably in India in the 19th century.<sup>66</sup>

Conservation: Since 1994 the manuscript has been conserved and rebound, using the original cover, and boxed.

Provenance: The manuscript's cycle is comparable with the Persian MS London, B.L. Or. 13163, which is attributed to the early 15th century.<sup>67</sup> B. Robinson (see bibliography) considered it to be "Turkman" in style but it has more recently been convincingly described as Sultanate in style and attributed to India.<sup>68</sup>

Illustration: Headpiece (fol. 1v) with floral decoration against a gold canopy with blue verticals above; pink stylised floral motifs on blue and gold below. The page has a gold three-sided frame. There are 62 miniatures distributed throughout the manuscripts: fols. 13v, 15v, 16r, 23r, 23v, 26v, 29r, 34r, 35v, 36r, 36v, 37r, 37v, 38r, 40r, 41r, 41v, 42r, 42v, 45r, 51v, 52v, 54r, 54v, 55v, 56r, 57v,

---

<sup>66</sup> The shape of the framing device in the covers and some of the floral motifs in detail are comparable with that reproduced by Haldane, *Islamic Bookbindings*, plate 128 (attributed, however, to Southern Persia).

<sup>67</sup> Titley, *Miniatures from Persian Manuscripts*, 6, no.16a.

<sup>68</sup> Waley, *List*, who points out that this manuscript represents the earliest extant New Persian version.

58r, 58v, 59r, 64v, 67r, 70r, 74v, 75r, 77r, 79v, 88v, 91r, 95r, 97v, 101v, 104r, 107r, 112v, 116r, 120r, 122v, 127v, 141r, (plate 44), 146v, 151v, 155v, 165r, 167v, 169v, 175v, 179v, (colour plate 8), 182v, 184v, 186r, 187v.

Bibliography: Robinson, *Persian Miniature Painting from Collections in the British Isles*, 97-98, no. 131; R. Hillenbrand, *Imperial Images in Persian Painting. A Scottish Arts Council Exhibition, 13th August – 11th September 1977* (Edinburgh 1977), 32, No. 52 with plate illustrating fol. 77r; E.J. Grube, 'Prolegomena for a Corpus Publication of Illustrated Kalila wa Dimnah Manuscripts,' *Islamic Art* IV (1990-1991), 388, no. 30.